

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1901

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 430

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IZ, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE IRAQI INTEREST IN DISCUSSION ON ENERGY

REF: BAGHDAD 294

1. DURING APRIL 14 CALL ON MFA ACTING DIRGEN OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BURHAN MOHAMMAD NOURI CONCERNING POSSIBLE VISIT BY GOVERNOR OF MISSISSIPPI AND TRADE MISSION, HE HINTED THAT GOI MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING UP DISCUSSIONS I HAVE HAD WITH HIM ON ENERGY MATTERS. (REFTEL) HE WONDERED IF WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SENDING OFFICIALS TO BAGHDAD FOR DISCUSSION AND AT WHAT LEVEL. I REPLIED THAT I THOUGHT WE WOULD AND PERHAPS GOOD PLACE TO START WOULD BE AT STRICTLY TECHNICAL LEVEL. HE SAID HE WOULD PASS THIS ON BUT GAVE NO INDICATION OF GOI DESIRE REGARDING LEVEL OR EXACT NATURE OF DISCUSSIONS.

2. WE LEARNED APRIL 19 THAT BURHAN HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO MINISTRY OF ECONOMY SO IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WE WILL HEAR NO MORE ABOUT THIS. PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO ALERT DEPARTMENT TO POSSIBILITY AND SEEK GUIDANCE AS TO WHETHER USG WOULD BE WILLING TO SEND ONE OR MORE ENERGY EXPERTS TO BAGHDAD FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI IF AND WHEN REQUEST IS MADE. LOWRIE

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